(a) the number of receipt books belonging to DDA lost during the last six months;

(b) whether the responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to check the misuse of these receipt books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has informed that no loss of receipt book belonging to DDA has been reported during the last six months.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Formulation of National Urban Transport Policy

2580. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Urban Transport Policy; and

(b) if so, whether a contract has been given to RITES for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) A Study for the analysis of the transport situation in 21 sample cities of different sizes in India was entrusted to M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) in March/April, 1993. The Study, inter alia, includes making recommendations to facilitate the formulation of a National Urban Transport Policy. The final report has been received. The need for the formulation or otherwise of an Urban Transport Policy can be examined only after the RITES Study Report is received.

ईसवगोल का उत्पादन

2581. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:** क्या रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में प्रतिवर्ष ईसवगोल का उत्पादन कितनी मात्रा में होता है और उसका बाजार मूल्य क्या है;

(ख) कुल उत्पादित ईसवगोल में से विभिन्न देशों को पृथक रूप से निर्यात की गई ईसवगोल की मात्रा क्या है और किन-किन देशों को इसका निर्यात किया जाता है तथा इसके निर्यात से प्रतिवर्ष कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ईसवगोल उद्योग में बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों को आने की अनुमति देने पर विचार कर रही है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इसका ईसवगोल उत्पादक राज्यों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा, यदि नहीं, तो 13 जुलाई, 1995 के हिन्दी दैनिक "हिन्दुस्तान" में "ईसवगोल: सवाल पेटेंटीकरण का" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित लेख पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ङ) सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लिया है?

रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) से (ङ) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Female Infanticide

2582. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether female infanticide is in vogue in several states;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action is being taken against the guilty persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) The evil practice of female infanticide is reportedly practised in certain parts of the country like Salem district in Tamil Nadu, Sitamarhi, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Katihar districts in Bihar etc.

(b) Poverty and social attitudes are the main reasons for the prevalence of the practice of female infanticide. There is a very high level of son preference resulting from the low status of women and the increasing cost of various ceremonies relating to various events in a girl's life such as ear boring, celebration of attainment puberty, marriage, birth of first child etc.